

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07218 01 OF 02 140212Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05
ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
NRC-05 PA-01 /167 W
-----002692 140229Z /73

R 132002Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6003
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07218

CAPETOWN PASS EMBASSY

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, BE, XA, XG, XF
SUBJECT: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON EUROPEAN-AMERICAN
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07218 01 OF 02 140212Z

DIALOGUE

1. SUMMARY: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, IN APRIL 11
SPEECH, CALLS THE U.S. REMISS IN ITS WORLD LEADERSHIP
RESPONSIBILITIES,
HITTING HARD AT U.S. ENERGY AND MONETARY POLICY AND TAKING A SLAP
AT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON THE NEUTRON BOMB. HE WARNS OF POSSIBLE

U.S.-EUROPEAN FRICTION ON QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWER VS. PROLIFERATION.

SIMONET ACCORDS US POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA A MEASURE OF PRAISE AND SUGGESTS A GREATER EUROPEAN ROLE IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, IN AN APRIL 11 SPEECH ON U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS TO BELGO-AMERICAN SOCIETY, SAID THAT THE U.S., STILL WEARING THE SCARS OF VIETNAM AND WATERGATE, WAS UNSURE AND IMPRECISE IN ITS WORLD LEADERSHIP, A SITUATION WHICH LEAVES HER EUROPEAN ALLIES "QUESTIONING" AND "UNEASY." TURNING TO SPECIFICS, SIMONET ASSAILED U.S. ENERGY AND MONETARY POLICY, SAYING THAT "... THE WORLD'S FIRST ECONOMIC POWER, GLUTTONOUS CONSUMER OF ONE-THIRD THE ENERGY USED IN THE WORLD, HUB OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM, IS NOT ASSUMING THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT DERIVES FROM THAT PRIVILEGED POSITION." HE SAID THAT THE PREVAILING VIEW IN EUROPE WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES "IS ACTING WITH A LAXITY WHICH WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN A COUNTRY OF LESSER IMPORTANCE EVEN IF IT WERE PASSING THROUGH A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION." LINKING ENERGY POLICY AND WEAKNESS OF DOLLAR, HE SAID THAT IF CONGRESS WERE ABLE TO PASS A LAW DEMONSTRATING THE WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO INCREASE ITS ENERGY PRODUCTION AND REDUCE ITS PETROLEUM IMPORTS, AND ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE WOULD BE REESTABLISHED. BUT FOR THAT, THE U.S., WHICH HE LABELLED THE "SPOILED CHILD OF THE WESTERN WORLD," WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION AND REVISE ITS LIFE-STYLE. HE DESCRIBED
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 07218 01 OF 02 140212Z

THE U.S. POLICY OF RESTRICTING NUCLEAR ENERGY SUPPLIES AS "POTENTIALLY

A SOURCE OF CONFLICT THAT WE HAVE TO AVOID."

3. SIMONET SAID THAT EUROPEANS CURRENTLY FIND U.S. STRATEGIC AND MILITARY POLICY MORE "INCOMPREHENSIBLE" EVEN THAN ENERGY OR MONETARY POLICY "AS SHOWN BY THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO POSTPONE HIS DECISION TO PRODUCE THE NEUTRON BOMB."

4. ON AFRICA, SIMONET STRESSED THAT BOTH EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THAT CONTINENT AND THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT "UNFAVORABLE SITUATION" FOR THE WEST IN THE HORN OF AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE ASSIGNED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE U.S. RATHER THAN DEPLORE AMERICAN REFUSAL TO INTERVENE ACTIVELY IN THE HORN, SIMONET SUGGESTED THAT THE EUROPEANS WOULD DO BETTER TO SEEK TO DEFINE A COMMON EUROPEAN POLICY FOR AFRICA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND COORDINATE IT WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH COOPERATION THE AGREED U.S. EUROPEAN POLICY ON ACCESSION TO POLITICAL POWER OF AFRICA'S BLACK MAJORITIES. SIMONET EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS "NO CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE COMMON EFFORTS OF THE U.S. AND THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER POLITICAL BALANCE BETWEEN THE BLACK MAJORITY AND THE WHITE MINORITY

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."

5. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, SIMONET LAUDED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS
"POLITICAL COURAGE" IN PRESSING ON FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE MIDDLE
EAST PEACE IN THE FACE OF ACCUSATIONS, CRITICISMS AND DIFFICULT
RELATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS. SIMONET WENT ON TO SAY THAT
COURAGE NEEDED TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
(PRESUMABLY TO BE SUPPLIED BY EUROPEANS.) HE STRESSED THAT THERE
WERE NO POINTS OF MISUNDERSTANDING OR POLICY DIVERGENCE ON THE
MIDEAST BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE. IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF
ALL TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS WHEREBY THE MIDEAST WOULD "CEASE TO BE

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07218 02 OF 02 140213Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07218

CAPETOWN PASS EMBASSY

ALSO FOR USEEC

THE POTENTIAL DETONATOR OF A TRAGIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE
SUPERPOWERS," HE SAID.

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07218 02 OF 02 140213Z

6. COMMENT: THIS BARBED SPEECH, REDOLENT OF SIMONETAN
CONDESCENSION, SHOULD BE READ AS A SOLO FLIGHT OF HENRI SIMONET,
SELF-APPOINTED SPOKESMAN FOR EUROPE, RATHER THAN THE CONSIDERED
OPINIONS OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. TO MAKE THIS CLEAR - AND
PERHAPS TO HEAD OFF A REACTION - FOREIGN MINISTRY PEOPLE HAVE EMPHA-
SIZED TO US THAT THE SPEECH WAS A "PERSONAL" STATEMENT OF SIMONET.
SINCE PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS WOULD NOT HAVE DELIVERED THIS
SPEECH, NOR CLEARED IT IF IT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIM, WE
WOULD NOT ADVISE ENHANCING ITS IMPORTANCE WITH A FORMAL
COMPLAINT TO THE GOB. OLSEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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